Juvenile Bureau
Feb 16, 1962

Statement of John T. Cater WM Age 41, residing 5454 Dauphine St., relative to an investigation of intimidation and threats.

STATEMENT

I, John Cater, without threats or promises, make the following statement and will answer all questions asked of me.

I was working at 2016 State St., in a private home on Thursday night Feb 15, 1962, and I received a phone call at about 8:30PM, from a man who asked me " do you know who this is" I told him that I had a good idea and he said "I'd like to meet you tomorrow", "I have a proposition". I suspected that it was David Ferrie on the phone, because I had heard about him and the trouble he was causing between Mike Crouchet and other boys. I was nervous about him calling at my work and I didn't know what to do, so I just told him that I would meet him. He asked me where was a good place to meet and I told him Walgreen's on Canal Street, because I was familiar with the location as I past this place every day. I picked this place because it was safe and I didn't want to be along with this man. He hung up after a short conversation.
I tried to get Mr. Crouchet that same night but changed my mind because I didn't want to disturb them. I called Mr. Crouchet this morning about 8:00AM to tell him what had happened. Mr. Crouchet told me to go ahead and meet Ferrie and said that he would notify the police.

I met Ferrie this morning at the designated time and place at 10:00AM. He told me he had a car, and that "Butch was with him and we would take a ride. We got in the car, which park by the curb on Canal directly in front of the center theatre. It looked like a Chevrolet convertible to me and Butch was driving it. Ferrie wanted to drive around the block because he was expecting some kid to meet him there. The kid didn't show up, so then we drove up Tulane Avenue into the Carrollton section and we started talking while driving. We drove to some Royal Castle resturant, but I don't remember where it was because I was nervous an unfamiliar with the neighborhood. Ferrie talked about his case and explained to me that if Mike Crouchet would not testify, no one would get into trouble. He stated that he had affadavits against me and Crouchet and the hockey players at the skating rink. He stated that it would be very serious for us, if the Crouchet boy testified against him. He asked me to get Mike to change his mind, not talk, and testify against him. He stated that he was doing this only to help all the boys who are involved, because he was interested in boys.
Ferrie stated to me that he had affadavits from boys who had been to my house on several occasions on sex parties. He stated that he was going to get Mike and his brother Courtland involved in a sex ring, and was making implications to make me believe that he had affadavits against me for having sex parties at my house. He told me that I was closer to the Crouchet family to anybody and he told me that I should have influence over them. I was wondering at the time how Ferrie came to know that I was good friends with the Crouchet family. He gave me his phone number which was a Vernon number, which I have at home. He told me to call him and let him know the results of what I could do for him. Butch heard the entire conversation between Ferrie and me. He even butted in and stated that he had been to my house too. I can say definately that Butch had never been to my house. I don't even known his real name. We did most of the talking while riding in the car. We did not do much talking after we went in to get a cup of coffee.

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After the discussion, Butch and Ferrie drove me to Flood and Burgundy St. It was about 12:00 Noon. I walked over to Mr. Crouchet's house and shortly after the police arrived.

Q. How long have you known the Crouchet family?
A. About 3 years. I visit them regularly and they visit me.

Q. Had you known Ferrie before this incident?
A. Never saw him before in my life.

Q. Had you ever known the boy named Butch?
A. No, only by sight. I have seen him at a skating rink in the past.

Q. Is there anything more you would like to add?
A. At about 4:00PM on Feb 16, 1962, I received a phone call at my house from Alvin Bobach. I boy I know from the skating rink. I asked him where I was and he stated that he was at Dave Ferrie's house. He stated that he had someone on the line who wanted to talk to me. Some other boys, whom I don't know and who didn't identify himself, spoke with me and asked if I had made a statement to the police. I told him know. He told me that Dave Ferrie was trying to help me and the other boys. He told me that the police had been to Ferrie's house and picked him up. He asked me if I had ever heard the police threated to kill Ferrie, get even with him or make remarks about him. The conversation ended when I told them that I wasn't interested.

Q. Do you have any idea how Ferrie got your name and phone number at work?
A. No.

Q. Is this statement true and correct to the best of your knowledge?
A. Yes

John T. Cater
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Statement taken in the presence of Patn Roland Fournier and Charles Jonau typewriten and completed at 9:00AM Feb 18, 1962 by Patn Fournier. It was necessary in this matter to begin the statement on Feb 16, 1962 and to complete it on Sunday Feb 18, 1962.